

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:LCB
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FOR EUR/EE - THREE COPIES ONLY
-----004301 030617Z /11
R 022307Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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FOR MAGEE FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT:OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, BISHOP OF THE
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK (312 W. 101 ST. 10025) OF THE
BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND DR. KALIN KOICHEFF,
CHAIRMAN, CHURCH COMMITTEE, BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX
CHURCH "ST. ANDREY", NEW YORK, VISITED JIM GLENN MAY 2.

2. THEY INFORMED GLENN THAT THEY WILL VISIT SOFIA FOR
THREE WEEKS BEGINNING MAY 8 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 11
CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REESTABLISHMENT
OF THE BULGARIAN PATRIARCHATE AND TO VISIT BULGARIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH OFFICIALS. THEY PLAN TO CONTACT EMBASSY
SOFIA TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF.
METROPOLITAN JOSEPH MET WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR HERZ
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PAGE 02 STATE 112088

TWO YEARS AGO.

3. THEY ALSO ASKED EUR/EE'S OPINION ON DEPARTMENT
PARTICIPATION IN PATRIARCH MAXSIM'S VISIT NEXT
SEPTEMBER. GLENN INFORMED THEM THAT, DUE TO SEPARATION
OF CHURCH AND STATE IN U.S. AND PRECEDENT, DEPARTMENT
PREFERRED NOT TO PARTICIPATE OFFICIALLY IN VISIT BUT

WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH MAXSIM.

4. THEY PROMISED TO REPORT BACK TO EUR/EE ON RETURN
TO U.S. VANCE

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